

New Mexico – Congressman Harry Teague named Charlie James, a lifelong resident of Carlsbad, as his latest “Veteran of the Month.” James was a prisoner of war in Japan for three and a half years, enduring illness and brutal conditions as a laborer. In recognition of his bravery and service, James received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, World War II Victory Medal, Pre-Pearl Harbor Medal, Prisoner of War Medal and New Mexico Bataan Medal.

“Charlie James’ sacrifice and selfless service honor our nation and exemplify the courage of our veterans. I want to take this opportunity to highlight and honor his bravery and to thank him for his dedication to our country,” Harry Teague, New Mexico’s only representative on the House Veterans Affairs Committee said. “It is only fitting to take time to recognize one of our country’s great heroes over the Independence Day holiday. We are able to celebrate our nation’s independence and freedoms because of people like Charlie James.”

Harry Teague will honor Mr. James over his Independence Day tour throughout the district with a presentation Tuesday, July 6th at the Carlsbad American Legion. Harry Teague will present him with a flag flown over the capitol, Teague’s personal Challenge Coin and a certificate recognizing this honor. Following the presentation, Congressman Teague will host a roundtable discussion on his “Veterans Bill of Rights” legislation he unveiled earlier in the month at the Joint Session of the New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in Albuquerque. Interested media are invited to attend.

After joining the New Mexico National Guard at 18 years old, James served at Fort Bliss, Texas, and later the Philippine Islands, where his platoon was attacked within a day of the attack on Pearl Harbor. A survivor of the Bataan Death March, James was imprisoned and transported to Japan aboard a ship on which thousands of men died due to inhumane conditions. Of the 1,800 New Mexico military members who left Bataan with James, only half returned home. James

returned to his family’s ranching business in New Mexico after the war ended. He and his family were twice honored as a Carlsbad “pioneer family.”

Congressman Teague’s “Veteran of the Month” program is designed to promote veterans issues and is coordinated by his Veterans Advisory Council, comprised of distinguished veterans from across southern New Mexico. Each month, a veteran will be recognized for their service overseas and here at home. To nominate a veteran for the “Veteran of the Month Program” please contact Major Nathan Howard at Nathan.howard@mail.house.gov .

Tuesday, July 6th:

What: Veteran of the Month Ceremony recognizing Charlie James and Veteran Bill of Rights Roundtable Discussion

Where: American Legion, 2311 Legion Street, Carlsbad,

When: Tuesday, July 6th, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM





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